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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INFO : ADEN, AMMAN, ANKARA, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BONN. FOR CINCUSAFE, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, DHAHRAN, FRANKFURT FOR LINDSEY AIR STATION, ATTN: DSC INTELLIGENCE, IDCA, HEADQUARTERS USAREUR HEIDELBERG, KARACHI, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LONDON, RABAT, TAIZ, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV, POLAD CINCSTRIKE/CINCMEAFSA, COMIDEASTFOR, DIA, CHUSMTM
FROM : Amembassy JIDDA
DATE: April 11, 1966

SUBJECT : Monthly Review for Saudi Arabia - March, 1966

REF :

SUMMARY

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	10/15/72	
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SUMMARY

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The U.S. during March continued to use its influence to try to keep the dialogue between Faisal and Nasser from breaking down. In conversations with the King and his advisors the Ambassador urged that Faisal take steps to send

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a senior Saudi representative to Cairo to keep the talks going.

In the context of U.S. efforts to assist the development and modernization of the Saudi Armed Forces, final contractual negotiations with the UK and US companies involved in the mixed air defense package continued during March. The Saudi military is still studying USMIM proposals for the integration of the air defense system into the Saudi Armed Forces. At the urgent request of Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince SULTAN, the U.S. Department of Defense is now drawing up on a high-priority basis a package proposal for the sale of wheeled and tracked vehicles to the Saudi Armed Forces. Proposals for U.S. training of National Guard personnel are still under discussion. The Saudis have accepted an earlier U.S. proposal to conduct a survey of Saudi police training facilities and practices.

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III. SAUDI-US RELATIONS

A. U.S. Urges Saudi-UAR Dialogue Continue

During March the USG continued to exert influence on both Faisal and Nasser to keep their dialogue afloat. Upon learning of Nasser's March 5 response to Faisal's counter-proposal, Secretary RUSK sent a personal message to Faisal, then in Khartoum, urging that he regard Nasser's response as a step toward keeping the negotiations alive and that he give it his careful consideration. The Secretary referred to the importance of getting the Egyptian troop withdrawal underway and suggested that the questions of the composition of the interim government and of the future of the Hamid ad-Dins could be negotiated. While Faisal expressed his appreciation for the Secretary's message, he was adamant that the 50-50 ratio he proposed could not be compromised. In conversations during the month with Royal Counsellor Dr. Rashad Phara'on, Deputy Foreign Minister Saqqaf, and other advisors to the King, the Ambassador emphasized the importance of keeping the dialogue going and stressed the desirability of Faisal sending a high-level personage to Cairo for further talks. Despite Faisal's negative reaction to Nasser's March 22 speech, the Ambassador in a meeting the next day obtained the King's agreement that he would work to prevent the negotiations from breaking down.

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the Ambassador pointed out the importance of a prompt resolution of the Yemen civil war and of generous Western and Arab support for whatever interim regime resulted if the Yemenis are to have a feasible alternative to Communist Bloc assistance.

B. Air Defense System Negotiations

Since the latter part of February, representatives of the British Aircraft Corporation and of Raytheon Corporation (manufacturers of the Hawk anti-aircraft missile) have been negotiating with Saudi Government officials the contractual details for their respective portions of the UK-US air defense system package

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selected by the Saudi Government last December. The Raytheon-Saudi contract negotiations are now expected to wind up sometime in April although the BAC-Saudi negotiations may drag on until May.

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Our Military Training Mission has been assured that Ministry of Defense and Aviation officials are continuing to study USMTM's proposals for integration of the air defense system into the Saudi Armed Forces. Prince Sultan told Chief, USMTM March 14 that his trip to Washington and other duties had thus far prevented him from giving these proposals his personal attention but promised General LEAHY a written response "very soon." In the meantime, the Embassy and USMTM are continuing to explore possible ways to ensure coordination between the US and UK components of the air defense system.

C. Military Vehicle Program

During his recent visit to Washington Prince Sultan asked the Secretary of Defense, on an urgent basis, to draw up a package proposal for the sale of wheeled and tracked vehicles to the Saudi Armed Forces on a government-to-government basis. The proposal would also include provision of recurring maintenance spares, training of Saudi personnel in the maintenance of these vehicles, and the construction of ancillary maintenance, training, and storage facilities. The Minister's request is the outgrowth of the survey of Saudi Armed Forces vehicle needs carried out by a U.S. Army team in mid-1964. In view of Prince Sultan's renewed interest in this project, the Department of Defense is giving his request a high priority and hopes to present specific proposals to Sultan by mid-April. The value of this package could be on the order of \$150 million.

D. National Guard Arms

The first shipment of arms and ammunition to be provided the Saudi National Guard ("the White Army") under the sales agreement signed last September

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failed to arrive as scheduled in Dammam in late March but is expected shortly. A two-man deprocessing team from the U.S. Army Materiel Command has arrived in Dhahran to inspect the shipment before it is turned over to National Guard authorities.

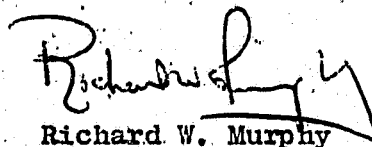
Discussion of possible U.S. training, on a cash reimbursable basis, for National Guard personnel is still continuing. A National Guard advisor has informally inquired about the possibility of training in the U.S. for selected National Guard non-commissioned officers. Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Guard Commander Prince ABDALLAH bin Abd al-Aziz has asked if the USG would be willing in principle to train National Guard "military cadets" in the Continental U.S. A number of questions remain to be resolved, however, including the sort of training Prince Abdallah wants his men to receive, the advantages of training in the U.S. versus in-country training, and the role of USMTM, if any, in training the National Guard.

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E. Police Training Survey

In a note dated March 22, the Saudi Government accepted an USG offer extended last October to provide the services of two American police experts to survey existing Saudi police training facilities and practices. In their reply the Saudis requested that one of the experts be a specialist in traffic control matters, a field which is currently being given increased emphasis by Saudi public security authorities.

For the Ambassador:



Richard W. Murphy
Second Secretary of Embassy

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